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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
EDWARD D. MALONEY
STATE SENATOR - 16TH DISTRICT

November 16, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room #SB-201
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Safe, Free Wireless Internet Accessibility

Dear Chairman Martin:

I have spent more than thirty years in the classroom teaching high school students. As a career educator, I constantly encourage participation in activities that enhance the classroom education. Utilizing online resources to support secondary education has become as commonplace as the chalkboard in today's classroom.

Free universal broadband access would allow all students, regardless of income level, to utilize and access the countless educational opportunities that exist outside the classroom.

As Chairman of the Illinois Senate Higher Education Committee I knew that colleges and universities expect and demand computer competence and internet ability on the part of their students. Limited access to internet can present an obstacle and be a setback in a student's educational career.

I understand that there is a proposal pending before the Federal Communications Commission that would provide universal free broadband access across the country. This program would help bridge the digital divide and provide all of today's youth a better opportunity to succeed in their educational pursuits.

Sincerely,


Ed Maloney
State Senator

CC: Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Tate
Commissioner McDowell
FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch
Kathy Seidel, Acting Chief, Wireless Bureau
U.S. Senator Durbin
U.S. Senator Obama
U.S. Representative Lipinski
U.S. Representative Rush
U.S. Representative Biggert